

What is claimed is:

1. A lawn mower, comprising:

- a) a chassis assembly having one or more drive wheels;
- b) a ground-following cutter deck assembly attached to said chassis; and
- c) rolling or sliding means attached to said cutter deck, wherein said chassis and said cutter deck are arranged such that said rolling or sliding means and said drive wheels support said chassis for movement over a surface.

2. A lawn mower, comprising:

- a) a chassis assembly having one or more drive wheels;
- b) a ground-following cutter deck assembly attached to said chassis;
- c) rolling or sliding means attached to said cutter deck, wherein said rolling or sliding means is selected from the group consisting of:
  - i) wheels;
  - ii) rollers;
  - iii) skids; and
  - iv) any combination of i-iv above; and

wherein said chassis and said cutter deck are arranged such that said rolling or sliding means and said drive wheels support said chassis for movement over a surface.

3. The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein each drive wheel is independently powered.

- 1     4. The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein each drive wheel is not independently powered.
- 1     5. The lawn mower of claim 1, further comprising a suspension system.
- 1     6. The lawn mower of claim 5, wherein said suspension system comprises one or more spring  
2         means between said chassis and said drive wheels.
- 1     7. The lawnmower of claim 6, wherein said spring means is selected from the group  
2         consisting of:
  - 3             a) a coil spring;
  - 4             b) a leaf spring; and
  - 5             c) a torsion bar.
- 1     8. The lawn mower of claim 5, wherein said suspension system comprises one or more spring  
2         means between said chassis and said cutter deck assembly.
- 1     9. The lawnmower of claim 8, wherein said spring means is selected from the group  
2         consisting of:
  - 3             a) a coil spring;
  - 4             b) a leaf spring; and
  - 5             c) a torsion bar.
- 1     10. The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein each drive wheel is capable of moving vertically up  
2         and down, substantially independently of vertical movement of an opposing drive  
3         wheel.
- 1     11. The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein each drive wheel is capable of moving vertically up  
2         and down, but not independently of vertical movement of an opposing drive wheel.

1 12. The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein said cutter deck substantially functions as an axle  
2 means.

1 13. The lawn mower of claim 12, wherein said cutter deck is capable of moving vertically up  
2 and down, substantially independently of vertical movement of said chassis.

1 14. The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein said rolling means substantially functions as a  
2 steering means.

1 15. The lawn mower of claim 1, wherein said cutter deck and said chassis are capable of  
2 responding substantially independently of each others' reactions to ground contours.

1 16. The lawn mower of claim 6, further comprising means for adjustably precompressing  
2 said spring means.

1 17. The lawn mower of claim 8, further comprising means for adjustably precompressing  
2 said spring means.

1 18. The lawn mower of claim 1, further comprising means for adjusting a cutting height of  
2 said cutter deck.

1 19. The lawn mower of claim 1, further comprising means for lifting said cutter deck.

1 20. A lawn mower, comprising:

2 a) a chassis assembly;

3 b) one or more drive wheels operably connected to said lawn mower;

4 c) a ground-following cutter deck assembly attached to said chassis; and

5 d) one or more wheels, rollers or skids attached to said cutter deck, wherein  
6 said chassis and said cutter deck are arranged such that said one or  
7 more wheels, rollers or skids and said drive wheels support said chassis  
8 for movement over a surface.

- 1     21. The lawn mower of claim 20, wherein said one or more drive wheels are attached to said  
2             cutter deck assembly.